

**Illinois**
Department of
Agriculture

George H. Ryan, Governor • Joe Hampton, Director

Bureau of Land and Water Resources

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February 9, 2001

E1-844

Mr. Stephen Van Winkle
Department of Public Works
Peoria City Hall
419 Fulton Street
Peoria, Illinois 61602-1263

Re: City of Peoria
Purchase Pioneer Lead Rail Spur from Union Pacific Railroad
DCCA Large Business Development Program Funds

Dear Mr. Van Winkle:

Thank you for notifying the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDA) of its request for Large Business Development Program (LBDP) funds from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (DCCA). The project has been reviewed for its potential impact to agricultural land as well as its compliance with Illinois' Farmland Preservation Act (505 ILCS 75/1 et seq.).

These funds will provide financial assistance to the city of Peoria for the purchase of the 1.8 mile Pioneer Lead rail spur from the Union Pacific Railroad. This spur will be used to retain rail service to existing customers in Pioneer Industrial Park. In addition, it will service an 800 acres area which is planned for increased industrial and commercial development. Because the spur lies within Peoria's corporate boundaries, the project is exempt from further review in accordance with Section 3 of the IDA-DCCA Cooperative Working Agreement on the protection of Illinois farmland.

We have determined the project meets the intent of the Illinois Farmland Preservation Act and do not object to the release of DCCA LBDP funds for its implementation.

Sincerely,

Steve Frank, Chief
Bureau of Land and Water Resources

SF:TS

cc: Director Joe Hampton, IDA
Joan Messina, IDA
Mike Williams, IDA
John Cross, IDA
John Herath, IDA
Warren Goetsch, IDA
Dennis Gorss, DCCA

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Copies Furnished: (w/o enclosures)

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Illinois Department of Natural Resources
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**Mr. Bruce Yurdin
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Post Office Box 19276
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**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Illinois Waterway Project Office
257 Grant Street
Peoria, Illinois 61603**